Quick Reference Sheet of Samba Permission Handling

🔹 Key Samba Config Options (Inside [sharename])

Option	What it Does
`path`	Filesystem path to share (e.g., `/mnt/shared`)
`writable`	Allows writing to share (`yes` or `no`)
`read only`	Opposite of writable (`yes` = deny writing)
`browseable`	Can the share be seen in network browsing?
`valid users`	Who can access the share (list of users or `@groups`)
`invalid users`	Who is *explicitly* denied
`guest ok`	Allow access without login (not recommended for security)
`create mask`	Sets default permissions for new files (e.g., `0664`)
`directory mask`	Sets default permissions for new folders (e.g., `0775`)
`force user`	Force all access to use a single system user
`force group`	Force all access to use a single group

🔹 Common Permission Masks

Octal	Meaning	Who can do what
`0777`	rwxrwxrwx	Everyone, everything
`0755`	rwxr-xr-x	Owner can write, others read only
`0770`	rwxrwx---	Owner and group full access
`0660`	rw-rw----	Owner/group read/write only
`0644`	rw-r--r--	Owner read/write, others read only

🔹 **Pro Tips**

Always set Linux permissions to match Samba expectations!

Samba doesn't override Linux ownership – it works with it.

Use `testparm` to verify `smb.conf` for typos.

Use `smbstatus` to check who's connected.

Avoid `guest ok = yes` unless you really mean "open season" on file access.

More Useful Commands:

To show **all storage mount points** in Linux system, use: bash **`findmnt`**

Alternatively, to see mounts along with filesystem usage: bash **`df -h`**

To see members of a group: bash **getent group sharedgroup**

Created entirely by ChatGPT 4o per its suggestion for students. ~ B. Carter